A

THANKSGIVING SERMON

FOR

DISCOVERY

Of the Late

Phanatick Plot,

September 9. 1683.

By *JOHN HARRISON* D.D.
Rector of *Pulborow* in *Sussex.*

Tantum Religio potuit Suadere Malorum.

LONDON,
Printed for *W. Crooke* at the Sign of the *Green Dragon* without *Temple-Bar*, nigh the Passage into the Temple, by *Deverenx* Court, 1683.

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To the Right Honourable

Sir *WILLIAM MORLEY*

Knight of the BATH,

One of his Majesties Honourable Deputy-Lieutenants for SUSSEX.

Right Honourable,

NEver was such a Mite presumptiously offered as this Trifle, to Your Honors Patronage: But having once Intituled it a Loyal Sermon, I knew not where more securely to shelter it, than under Loyalty it self. Your Honors known Modesty could never yet endure large Encomiums, which are also unsuitable Prefaces for a Religious Discourse

scourse, nor can I give an account of any secret Impulse of Nature, except your Powerful Name, in relation to my Lord Bishop of Winchester, *with your Train of attractive Virtues, that hath ever secretly inclined my heart more peculiar to your Honors Service than any other Person whatsoever. I have endeavoured my utmost, what will best agree with your Loyal thoughts, to keep my self (as close as possible) within the Method of his Majesties excellent Declaration, accounting it far beneath the sence of Honor, to write after an Enemies Pattern, either bitter Invectives, or, if in my Power, Characters of Blood, so humbly Addressing my hearty Zeal for my King and Country, better beseeming your Protection than an Elegance or softness of Style. I take leave with my Fervent Prayers to God for a farther*

farther Discovery of this Fanatick Plot, with all imaginable success on your Loyal endeavours, and the other his Majesties Honorable Deputy-Lieutenants of this Western *Division of* Sussex, *perchance for its bigness more fruitful of such great Examples, than any other Spot within his Majesties Dominions,*

Right Honourable,

your Honours most obliged

humble Servant,

JOHN HARRISON.

The Epistle Dedicatory.

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A

A SERMON ON 2 SAM. XVIII. XXVIII.

And Ahimaaz called, and said unto the King, all is well. And he fell down to the Earth upon his face before the King, and said, Blessed be the Lord thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lift up their hand against my Lord the King.

THE Preacher tells us, that that which hath been, is now, and that which is to be, hath already been, and There is no new thing under the Sun.

We have had, and have ſtill the ſame Inſtances of Danger: what befell *David*, in the caſe of his Son *Abſalom*, hath befaln our Sovereign, of a like unnatural Son, both Righteous Kings afflicted with a Rebellious Off-ſpring. And if there be divers circumſtances in either of theſe helliſh Conſpiracies, Ours hath been heightned of far more endearing Kindneſs. As *Abſalom* by fair Speeches did ſteal the hearts of *Iſrael*, 2 Sam. 15. 5, 6. *And it was ſo, that when any came nigh to him, to do him Obeyſance, he put forth his hand, and kiſſed him, And on this manner did* Abſalom *to all Iſrael, that came to the King for Judgment, ſo* Abſalom *ſtole the hearts of the men of Iſrael.* And our Iſrael can witneſs, this hath been no new thing, for that which hath been of old time, was alſo practiſed of our *Abſalom*. Again, the Rebellion that was to begin at *Hebron* did happen under pretence of paying of a Vow unto the Lord, that is, under the Veil or Diſguiſe of Religion, 2 *Sam.* 15. 7. *Abſalom ſaid unto the King, Let me go and pay my Vow, which I have vowed unto the Lord in Hebron.*

But

But this pretence of a Vow was only in effect, to send Spies through all the Tribes of *Israel*, ver. 10. *Assoon as ye hear the sound of the Trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom Reigneth in Hebron.* Nothing more usual than to give out the Cause of Christ, whilst under that Vizor, they act Parts quite contrary to his Holy Doctrine and blessed example, so true is the Observation of the Preacher, *That which hath already been, now is.*

As if the Kings Declaration (for this Days Deliverance) had been the very Transcript of the Text. And this is ever observable, in a well-formed Conspiracy (if a Conspiracy can in any sense be so expressed) First, To settle it self under some chief Leader, that especially of Popular Arts, hath insinuated himself into the Multitude, giving out himself to be some Mighty one, and what he wants of a just Title, (as that ought ever to be pretended in an Hereditary Kingdom) he will make good, in his Defence, of the Peoples Religion, Estates, Lives, and Liberties.

The buſineſs is, to cheat the World with a pretence of Sanctity and Zeal, and to blind the Peoples eyes more ſtrongly in theſe Miſchievous Attempts; they do ever joyn this Chief Leader with ſome notable *Achitophel*, that is, ſome experienced Counſellor (if ſuch can be procured) as hath been formerly eminent or ſucceſsful in the overthrow of a State or Kingdom, 2. *Sam.* 15. 12. *And Abſolom ſent for Achitophel the Gilonite, David's Counſellor, from his City, even from Giloh, while he offered Sacrifices; and the Conſpiracy was ſtrong, for the People encreaſed continually with Abſalom.* And this was profeſſedly done (as being no new thing under the Sun) in the late Earl of *Shaftsbury*. And to make it farther appear, that the Church hath formerly had ſuch Enemies, he is at large deſcribed in *Pſal.* 36. 2.3,4. *He flattereth himſelf in his own Eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful; the words of his mouth are Iniquity and deceit, he hath left off to be wiſe, and to do good, he imagineth Miſchief upon his Bed, &c.* A Character ſo peculiar to our *Achitophel*, that inſtead of deſcribing (as ſome Interpreters

ters do hereby) an Enemy (in general) of the Church of God.) It seems a special Prophecy (for so *David* was a Prophet) that such a wretch should arise in these days. Now from this Description, ye may easily conclude, the Conspiracy in a short time grew very strong. And to this purpose, there happens a singular Instance in the story of *Absalom*, how they did continually increase in numbers; and that was, by sending messengers through all the Tribes of *Israel*, nor can I deliver in more fitting words what these Spies did intend, than *Tremellius*'s Paraphrase on this Passage. *Nunciorum speciem præ se ferebant, Re tamen explorabant Animos Præcipuorum Israel, in Absalonis Partes seductos*: that is, These Spies did seemingly carry the joyful news of this Journey to *Hebron*. (*Re tamen explorabant*.) But in truth, they were to underfeel the chief of *Israel*, who were inclined to take part in this intended Conspiracy. And is not *Tremellius* his Paraphrase verified in our Spies? Or else, what meant the Multitudes of Men and Horses in most Parts of *England*? utterly contrary to Law, unless

on

on a Reception of the King himself, only to evince the King's Son (as they flatteringly stiled him) that by this mighty strength they were able to make him a King indeed.

And now all things being thus ready for the fatal Blow, (and yet by an All-seeing Providence no Blow given) The old Fox that had never learnt that part of the Gospel, that it was expedient for one man to die for the Nation, begins to shift for himself. And pitching an eye on *Holland*; most agreeable with his Common-wealth Genius. He chose rather to hazard his Den of Foxes, with his whole Association, than his own precious Neck to the stroke of Justice. It was this Association, together with a Vote of Parliament, That if the King fell by an untimely Death, it should be revenged on the Papists, which first gave birth to this Hellish Conspiracy, with sure belief all along, to accomplish its [illegible].

For since the Solemn League and Covenant (on which our *Civil War* was bottom'd) never such a Piece of *Machiavilian* Mischief

chief, did enter on the Christian Stage, as this *Association*; which however they called The Solemn Union of all true Protestants, comprehending under this Union, all sorts of Sectaries, no matter how Dignified or Distinguished, so they were in their wild Principles, quite opposite to the Communion of the Church of *England*, by Law Established ((the true Protestant here intended, being a Dissenting Member of the Non-conforming Communion of the Church of *England*.) Is not this then a meer Jesuitism, and a double refined Treason, for any of these Conspirators to pretend themselves of the Church of *England*; when the true Test, without tricks or evasions means only the Church of *England*, by Law Established. No wonder then, if the Sword intended by this stratagem, to be intrusted with our deadly Enemies of all sorts; it was very probable, to have been sheathed in the Bowels of the best of Princes, and his dearest Brother, his Royal Highness: for it was the Suppression of the Crown with Episcopacy, which they had resolved the best expedient for pulling down of Tyranny, and the Church of *Rome*.

And I

And yet had these Weapons, so craftily formed, prevailed either against Church or State, these true Protestants had a Salvo at hand to have laid it on the Papists, a People bloody enough! Yet their numbers being very few, comparatively with these Incendiaries, (which have overspread this Nation) they never could have aimed such an universal Massacre as was designed of these true Protestants. It is here observable of what mischievous consequence any Combination is, of what kind soever, whether influence of self-Interest, Pride, Ambition, Spight or Malice; to be led out of the Kings High-way of Honesty into any By-Paths of our own, be it in the smallest matter: only at first perchance into a Combination of lesser moment, tho only against your Lawful Minister: for ye know not how soon of these beginnings of Mischief ye may be led into the broad Road of Rebellion. What a Tempest should we have had, if this black Fanatick Cloud had broken over our Heads! Never was Death figured with so many terrible shapes, as were visible in this Conspiracy,

racy; but God have the Praiſe that we are in hopes not to ſee it not only blow over, but that the Storm is like to fall upon the heads that raiſed it. Some of theſe Treacherous dealers, who have dealt ſo very Treacherouſly with us, are already fallen into the pit which they digged for others, and are enſnared in the miſchievous works of their own hands. And it is to be hoped for the reſt, that their violent dealing will fall upon their own heads. (For he who is truth itſelf, in whom we truſt, whoſe we are, and whom we ſerve hath aſſured us, that wicked and blood-thirſty men ſhall not live out half their days) For he who is the God of all mercy abhors the cruel and deceitful man.

Thus far the Committee of ſix did ſucceed in this Enterprize, under many Fears and Jealouſies of a Popiſh Succeſſor, to hold correſpondence in ſeveral parts of *England*, for a general Inſurrection, their Followers being poiſoned with ſeveral treaſonable poſitions (*viz.*) that it was agreeable with the Chriſtian Religion, with the Laws and Liberties of this Kingdom, to defend the Pro-

ſtant Profeſſion with open Force and Reſiſtance. That there is a Liberty in the People to acquire to themſelves that which they apprehend to be their Right, by Force, if they cannot obtain it of the Prince by fair means. And this was eſpecially inſtanced in the caſe of the Bill of Excluſion (where reflecting on many violences, that were offered for compaſſing this Bill, no paſſage did ſeem more unnatural than a forcing Sir *Lionel Jenkins* to carry it up to the Houſe of Lords, who had beſt oppoſed it by his admirable Reaſoning) on purpoſe to repreſent him (had it been poſſible) a betrayer of his Truſt and Conſcience, grounding themſelves on this *Julian* Principle, that the Peoples Preſervation was the Supreme Law. Thus did theſe ſubtil Foxes (while their heads looke ſeveral ways) carry theſe Firebrands between their Tails to have reduced this flouriſhing Empire (once more) into Duſt and Aſhes. Theſe Opinions, with divers of the like ſtamp, I might reaſonably inſiſt much larger (only bound in the compaſs of a Sermon.) They can be only mentioned

tioned to give a fair warning, how under the moſt colourable pretences we never be enticed to combine with any number of men againſt a Lawful Power; for however they ſweeten or guild over this Poiſon, there is no more real way to introduce Popery than a vain fear of it; and this was the very thing the Jeſuits aim'd at in the Reign of King *James*, and the late unnatural War, to deſtroy each other by theſe Jealouſies, and at laſt, either by Force or Policy to bring us back to the Romiſh Church: nor can we ever enough abhor this Peſtilence, which in ſeveral Kings Reigns hath ſtruck many Subjects dead, by a due courſe of Law, too ſadly made appear in the death of the late Lord *Ruſſel*, who encouraged by this *Scotch* Doctrine, that it is lawful to defend a mans Conſcience by open Force againſt any Authority whatſoever, did dare adventure his Body, (yea I tremble) his very Soul on this falſe Bottom, ſo his execrable Paper ſeems to import; as if purpoſely to embolden ſuch perſons as are left behind of the ſame Leven; inſtead of a faithful (I fear) he met a faithleſs Confeſſor. I cannot

not believe but that the whole World will entertain this Discovery with horror; and tho the Sectaries will endeavour with the greatest Impudence to deny or mitigate it, yet certainly this many headed *Hydra* will receive the Blow which they intended for our Religion: for who, that is not resolved to quit Humanity, will believe that Religion which is to be maintained with Treasons and Murders of the most purple dye?

But here a smile must part from me (which however is lawful enough on a Thanksgiving day) that all this was to be done to keep out Popery, when they made it one main branch of the Conspiracy to say they did fear it, and when they were to act that themselves which they had perswaded the World was ever the contrivance of the Jesuit, *viz.* to murder the King. In the case of the Bill of Exclusion, the Duke was to be made away for preservation of the King. In this Plot the King was to be Murdered for sake of the Duke; so King and Duke taken in this sad Dilemma were after this new Presbyterian Logick to be both Sacrificed. Where will these Wretches

appear

appear hereafter? That of these hellish mental reservations did design nothing Base and Inhumane, when forsooth relying of much Gallantry in their vast numbers, they did resolve to do it with Swords in their hands: but I would ask them what difference between *Walcot's* Sword, and *Wakeman's* Poison? When the Nation had laid weltring (as at this day) in its purest Blood; such had been the life of the best of Princes, his Illustrious Brother *James* Duke of *York*, the Reverend Bishops, Nobility, the Loyal Clergy, Gentry, and Commons of this Realm: But instead of these Fiery Tryals, we are to bless God for a sudden unexpected Fire at *Newmarket*, (which the *Worcester* Address excellently expresseth) was purposely kindled a Sacrifice from Heaven for his Majesties happy Deliverance.

The Noon-day Star that appeared at this Glorious Birth, did doubtless presage our now Dread Soveraign, the peculiar care of Heaven, to be attended with Miracles, where ordinary means should fail his Preservation; instead then of his Majesties being

wounded

wounded of their deadly Quills, which in the Language of these *Ishmaelites* did signifie several instruments of Death, *God shall suddenly shoot at them* (as of this days discovery) *and wound the hairy scalp of such an one*, that still persisteth in this kind of wickedness.

Tho it hath pleased an all-powerful God to preserve his Majesty in his Royal Person, through the whole course of his Life, safe and untouched of the innumerable attempts and devices of his Fanatick Enemies; yet (as if it pleased the same God) for an aggravating punishment of these Treasons hereafter, he hath given way of his permissive Power to set their Tongues (as it were) on Fire from Hell, to speak evil of Dignities, and such as are in Authority over them. The Statute of 13 *Car.* 2. says expresly, *That whosoever shall advisedly Publish or Affirm the King to be a Heretick or Papist, or that he endeavours to introduce Popery, to incite or stir the People to Hatred or Dislike of the Person of his Majesty, or the Established Government: Every such Person or Persons being thereof Legally Convicted shall be disabled to have or enjoy, and is hereby disabled*

disabled and made incapable of having, holding, or enjoying any Place, Promotion, Office Ecclesiastical, Civil or Military. Tho in other Cases these grand Reformers do seemingly Reverence an Act of Parliament more than the Word of God it self, which hath expresly ordained, *Let every Soul be subject to the higher Powers*; yet in this Case fully assured to advance themselves of a popular *Odium* to the Government, rather than of an Act of Parliament; I do here appeal daily Experience whether this be not the *Billingsgate* Language of our pretended Saints? to burthen the King and all his Loyal Subjects with the hateful name of Papist: certainly a more senseless piece of detraction was never invented on this side *Bedlam*, than to Brand the Church of *England* by Law Established with the name of Papists, who are the only Bulwark against Papists and Phanaticks. And to deliver a known Truth, all sorts of Sectaries (how different soever) in other Opinions and Interests are here like *Herod* and *Pilate* made Friends, for a Crucifying the true Church of God; an observable to this purpose being first a demure

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hatching abominable Scandals in Coffee-houſes, to belch them afterwards more loudly, being heightned with Wine in ſeveral Fanatick Taverns, for theſe Shops of Wickedneſs formerly objected on the Loyal Party, are become Nurſeries of Rebellion, Inceſt, Drunkenneſs, Debauchery of every kind, becoming the ſure marks of theſe chief Leaders of Sedition. The Lambs were ever allowed to skip and play, (but in this age joyned with Atheiſts) they may leap over Mountains; for, if you are for a Commonwealth Vice ſhall paſs for Virtue, Falſhood for Truth.

Enough (I truſt in God) to diſcountenance wickedneſs hereafter, and no Loyal Perſon ever to be out-ſtript of his real Religion for the ſeeming pretence of it in others: ſo of this glib Treaſon of the Tongue as it uſually happens, they were haſtning to downright Blows.

Several places appointed of theſe Traitors for this purpoſe, but with all imaginable Thankſgiving diſappointed of an Almighty God.

Rumbold

Rumbold a *Malster*, a suitable Leader of these Sick-brained Wretches, staggering too and fro like Drunken men, yea, at their wits ends, of the deep draught which they had often taken in of Sin and Treason.

These Bulls of *Bashan* far more disdainfully cruel, than the Bulls in *Red-Lyon Fields*, where again of Savage minds, they thirsted after Royal Blood.

But why all this while no news from *Scotland*? Such a Train of Mischief to be hatched in any part of the World and no *Scotch* Treachery intermingled with it? Can there be a War at *Hebron*, under pretence of paying a Vow to the Lord? Or in *England* under colour of Religion, and nothing in it of the *Solemn League and Covenant*? The Serpent may want his Sting, or the Adder his Poison; but I fear this People will never be without an *Argyle* or a *Ferguson*, yet I must acknowledge, some few of Her Nobility, with her late Parliaments have somewhat atton'd past Offences: and perchance this Correspondence now intended, was rather to be held with the Field-meeters

than any sober heads of that Nation, for sure they have been so many years a lasting mark of Infamy (over the habitable Earth) for selling the late King, of Blessed Memory, as *Judas* did his Saviour, that they cannot delight in a continuance of such Disgrace, as wants a Parallel.

Now after a Survey of this Hellish Conspiracy which (being one of the meanest of my Brethren) I have drawn with a very weak Pensil; A sudden horror here seizeth my trembling heart, at the sad apprehension what had befaln all of us (had this Conspiracy took effect) from the Palace of the King himself to the meanest Cottage, for such was the violence of this Treason, that it seems they had readily concurred to take up Arms, to destroy the Government, even before they had agreed what to set up in the place of it, so instead of a Reformation, which they pretended to have been, of taking up Arms, it must have hapned as it did in our late Confusions. First, Divisions had arisen among themselves, and then, on what side soever Victory had inclined her self,

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the Conquerors Party must have been Slaves to the Tyranny and Lust of the Conqueror.

Then the proud Waters would have gone over our Soul, they would have ſwallowed us up quick, while they were ſo wrathfully diſpleaſed at us. The face and voice of an Angel (which hitherto had been for Religion, Eſtates, Lives, and Liberties,) would have been changed into the hands of a Devil, to have rent all theſe in a thouſand pieces, the bleeding marks and laſhes of theſe Common-wealth-Proteſtants ſcarce out of our ſides had been turned into a very Shambles: For it is a damnable Maxim among them (if ever they again attain the Power) to deſtroy all Loyal Families Root and Branch, for, ſay they, the ſparing theſe *Amalekites*, was the high provocation which Reſtored *Charles Stuart* to the Throne; no better Language to have been allowed our now Dread Sovereign and all his Loyal Followers.

Should we ever truſt a Rebellion, though flattered with Golden Lives and Liberties;

never any single Person that had signally ſerved his King and Church, but he ſhall be ſhackled with Iron Fetters. In one word, to conceive our ſelves under the mercy of a Sword, is no other than *England*, now an Earthly Paradiſe, to become an *Akeldama*, that is, a very Field of Blood.

Therefore the Thankſgiving in the Text fitly applieth it ſelf on this days Deliverance.

Bleſſed be the Lord thy God, which hath delivered up the men, that lift up their hand againſt my Lord the King.

I can compare the Enemies of this day (next this of the Text) with no fitter Scripture-examples, than with *Bigthan* and *Tereſh*, the Chamberlains of *Ahaſuerus*, the great *Perſian* Monarch, *Eſther* 2. 21. *Two of the Kings Eunuchs, Bigthan and Tereſh were wroth, and ſought to lay hands on the King.* More than Heatheniſh wickedneſs this, to render evil for good, becauſe the King had raiſed them to be the chief keepers of his Body, to become the chief ſeekers of his Blood. The Text gives no reaſon for all this, only they

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were angry; yet being said they were angry in those days, it is agreed by Interpreters, it was at the Marriage of Queen *Esther*, she being a Captive of the *Jews*, they presently clamor, we shall now all be *Jews*, for *Ahasuerus* must not Marry but where *Bigthan* and *Teresh* do appoint.

No reason this at all, to forget an Oath of Allegiance, to cast behind them all past Favours, to betray their Trust, to lift up a hand against God's Anointed. Yet for a far less Reason were our Traitors full of wrath, not for the Kings Marriage with a Captive, but for his near adherence to his own flesh and blood, his dearest Brother, *James* Duke of *York*, presently we must be all Papists.

As *Bigthan* and *Teresh*, so our Traitors, once men of great Wealth and Renown, some Guardians of the Kings Person, others of his Council-board, are on a sudden entrapp'd in the Devices of their own hands.

This must needs be the Lords doing, and it is Marvellous in our eyes, O that men would therefore Praise the Lord for his Goodness, and declare the Wonders that he doth for the Childen of men!

Sure

Sure there are, the better they be dealt with, the worſe ſtill ye ſhall find them, and of theſe *David* was in moſt danger. Alas! nothing but a Vow at *Hebron*, when this Vow was to have deprived him of Life and Kingdom. This is the way of them all; that before it be ſeen it may do the Miſchief that is meant. What Dangers are they in that are in this Caſe? How neer being loſt, only the Kings Enemies being the Enemies of God? They are preſerved of *Iſhbenot*, an open Enemy, 2 *Sam.* 21. 16. as well as of *Achitophel*, a wicked Counſellor. No way (it ſeems) to prevail againſt a Righteous King, except they can keep back an All-ſeeing Eye. And ſhall it pleaſe God to find a watchful Eye to ſave us, and ſhall not we find Lips to Bleſs and Magnifie him for it?

O that men would therefore praiſe the Lord for his Goodneſs, and declare the wonders that he doth for the Children of Men!

Ahimaaz and *Cuſhi* ſtrive very hard which might out-run the other, to bring an earthly King the defeat of a Rebel-Army. Theirs was an open Rebellion, oppoſed of a like open Force,

Force, and ſo in ſome ſence to be aſcribed to the help of men, ours was a cloſe Conſpiracy, carried on in dark corners, impoſſible ever to have ſeen the Light, ſo as to have been prevented, except of an All-mighty God.

How infinite more Reaſon then, for each of us to haſten, which may exceed each other in our Joys, Praiſe, and Thankſgiving.

O that Men would therefore Praiſe the Lord for his Goodneſs, and declare the Wonders that he doth for the Children of Men.

F I N I S.